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# The rearing environment and well-being of returned asylum-seeking adolescents in Kosovo and Albania

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# The cycle of migration

- Pre-flight
  - Flight
  - Host country
- 
- How about after return to the country of origin?

(Bronstein & Montgomery, 2011; Fazel, Reed, Panter-Brick & Stein, 2012)

# Research questions

1. How are children faring after return in Kosovo and Albania?
2. Which factors predict their rearing environment and social-emotional well-being?

# Predictor variables

## *Procedural characteristics host country*

Stable residence permit

Return procedure

## *Child and contextual characteristics*

Age

Gender

Ethnicity and country

Living area after return

Length of stay and length since return

(Carr, 2014; Davids & Van Houte, 2008; Gladwell & Elwyn, 2012; Knaus et al., 2012; Vathi & Duci, 2015)

# Dependent variables

Social-emotional well-being:

*Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire* (SDQ; Goodman, 1997)

- Emotional problems
- Peer problems

Quality of the childrearing environment:

*Best Interests of the Child Questionnaire* (BIC-Q; Zijlstra et al., 2012; Zijlstra et al., 2013)

# Best Interests of the Child (BIC) Model

<b>Family: current situation</b>		<b>Society: current situation</b>	
1. Adequate physical care		8. Safe wider physical environment	
2. Safe direct physical environment		9. Respect	
3. Affective atmosphere		10. Social network	
4. Supporting, flexible childrearing structure		11. Education	
5. Adequate examples by parents		12. Contact with peers	
6. Interest		13. Adequate examples in society	
<b>Family: future and past</b>		<b>Society: future and past</b>	
7. Continuity in upbringing conditions, future perspective		14. Stability in life circumstances, future perspective	

# Research sample

106 children in families returned from EU host countries

59 boys, 47 girls

55 Albanian, 30 Roma in Kosovo

21 Albanian in Albania

11 – 18 years old ( $M = 14.4$  years)

Lived 2 months – 18 years in host country

On average 2.1 years returned in Kosovo or Albania



# How are children faring after return?

SDQ:

Emotional problems: 32%

Peer problems: 30%

BIC-Q:

Quality of the childrearing environment: on average 9 conditions of sufficient quality

# Which factors predict the social-emotional well-being and living situation?

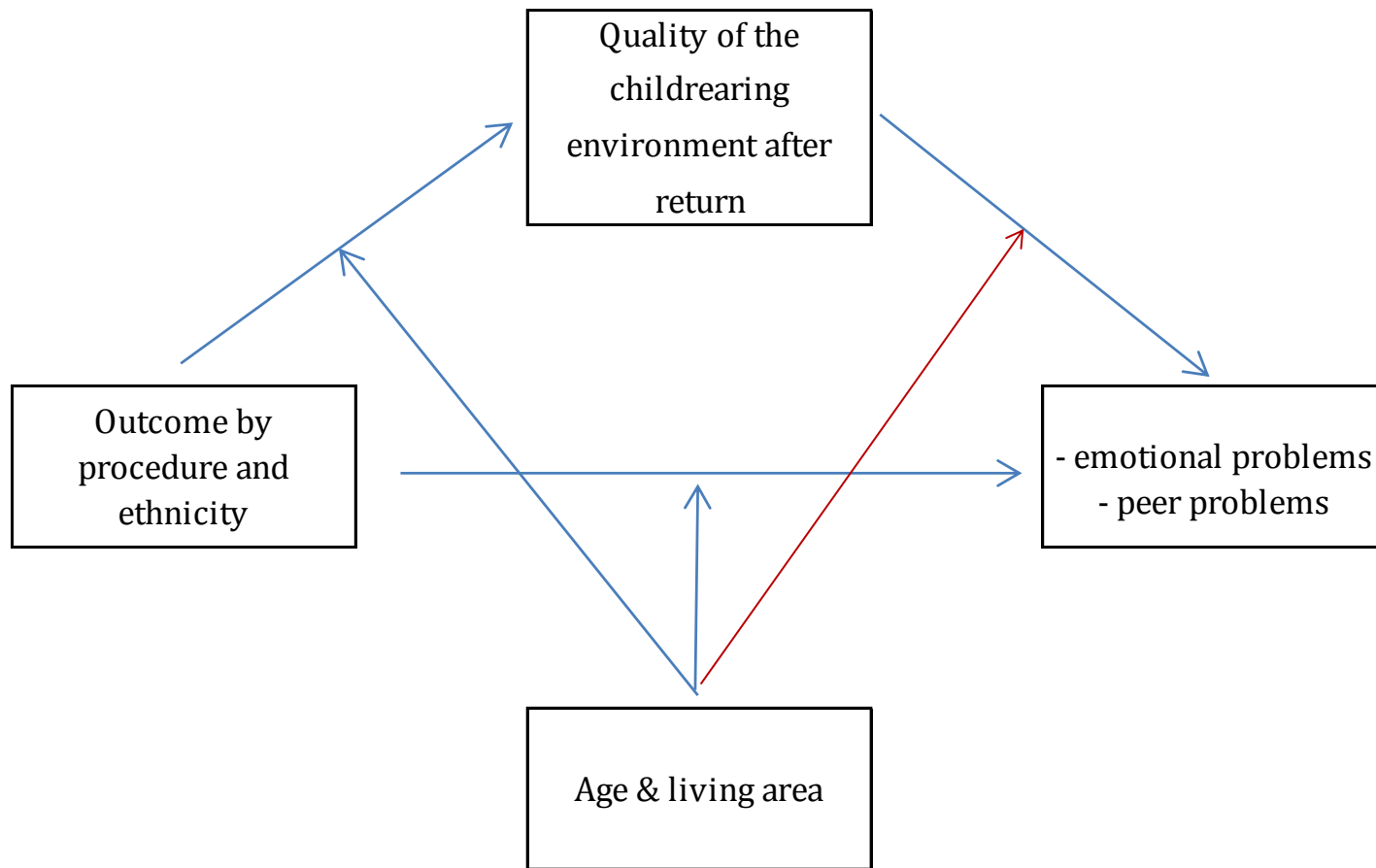
Residence permit in host country

For children without a permit: no difference regarding forced or voluntary return

Belonging to a majority or minority ethnic group

*Emotional problems:* rural living area

*Peer problems:* older adolescents



**Figure 1.** Conceptual model with mediator and moderators

# Conclusion

Procedural factors and situation of families during the stay in host countries

Child- and contextual characteristics

Need of knowledge on situation of returned asylum-seeking children

- better-informed decisions asylum procedure
- support in line with child's needs

Thank you for your attention!

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